

## Green Team Meeting Minutes 12/5/13

Recorder: Pam Cubberly

Attendees: Aaron Sutch, Chris Haddox, Ella Belling, Jim Kotcon, Kate Sedgwick, Lisa Lagana, Pam Cubberly, and Trevor Lloyd

- Meeting called to order by Aaron Sutch at 5:30 PM. There were no outstanding items of business from previous meetings.
- The group introduced themselves for the benefit of Kate Sedgwick, a WVU student working on a wind power project who was attending to take notes for Adam King who could not make it.
  - **ACTION:** Chris Haddox offered to meet with her to discuss wind power as an option for the Morgantown area.
- Energy Update
  - LED lighting update (Trevor Lloyd and others)
    - The cost of replacing one of the LED lights due to a truck collision has raised city concern about the cost of LEDs.
    - LED lights have high upfront costs but are cheaper to run. In general, the LED street lights have had very few problems and are saving the city money.
    - Trevor expects to get data on energy usage of LEDs next month, which may help to counter these concerns.
  - MGMT approach to city regarding proposed injection well
    - This item was not discussed.
  - Morgantown Lock and Dam Hydro Project (Ella Belling)
    - Ella Belling described concerns of stakeholders including the city on impacts of proposed hydroelectric generation at the Morgantown dam by Free Flow Power. Of particular concern are impacts on the bike trail, neighborhood, Wharf District businesses, water sports, environment, etc.
    - After hearing citizen input, the city wrote the company a letter asking it to revise its proposal to respond to a variety of concerns and wishes, including energy benefits to the city.
    - Those who submitted comments to FERC will automatically receive an update on next steps and opportunities for further input.
    - **ACTION:** Ella will keep the team informed.
    - Ella mentioned that the national Rail Trail Conservancy has selected Morgantown, Pittsburgh, and Cleveland for special focus this year in terms of developing long-distance connections among existing bike trails in the region. They are considering installing electronic usage counters at two points under the Mon River Trail.
    - **ACTION:** Jim and Aaron will meet with the Green Team's energy committee to further consider the issue.
  - Energy Efficiency Workshop Report (Jim Kotcon)
    - Local government officials described successful initiatives, including Don Spencer who presented on Morgantown.

- Workshop was attended by 20 persons from around West Virginia
- Goal was to create small committees on energy efficiency in various WV cities and at WVU.
- Spring workshop planned for May or June.
- Solar energy (Aaron Sutch)
  - Web page tracking output of solar panels on Marketplace rooftop shows production of 1kW a day, about a third of what the average home requires in electricity per day.
  - Mountain Institute and Downstream Strategies released their white paper on solar energy in WV on January 28 ([\*Using Solar PV to Create Economic Opportunity and Energy Diversity in West Virginia\*](#)). They are now promoting it.
  - WV is the 51<sup>st</sup> state in terms of number of solar jobs. In comparison, Pennsylvania has 4,000 jobs, placing it in the top 25 states and Ohio is 10<sup>th</sup> in terms of jobs.
  - February 20 Green Night at Library will focus on this research report.
- Leadership Transition and establishment of five-member quorum
  - Aaron Sutch described a transparent process under which the former chair, Chris Haddox, has transferred his role to Aaron, explaining the transfer by email to team members and at two Green Team meetings. Aaron thanked Chris for his skillful and congenial guidance of the team for the past couple years.
  - Trevor Lloyd, representing the City, raised again the issue of a quorum for Green Team decisions. A simple majority of active Green Team members who live within Morgantown boundaries is needed for decisions moving forward. He proposed the following five Green Team members with some alternates serve as “voting members”: Aaron Sutch, Chris Haddox, John Hall, Lisa Lagana, and Pam Cubberly. Those present agreed to serve in such a capacity, including Lisa Lagana who officially agreed to become a member of the Green Team.
  - **ACTION.** Several other team members will be asked about their willingness to serve as voting members or alternates.
  - Some city officials think the Green Team would have a better presence if it followed the same guidelines as city commissions, that is, following specific by-laws, operating under Robert’s Rules of Order, accepting members under certain criteria, etc.
  - Existing Green Team by-laws need updating. Some of their provisions have not been followed.
  - **ACTION.** Aaron, Trevor, and Chris Haddox will take a look at existing and sample language to come up with recommendations. They will seek input and review from relevant city officials, including Jeff Mikorski. The new by-laws will be posted on the Green Team website.
- Business Outreach: Recycling at Starbuck’s Project
  - Several Green Team members have met with Mariana Matthews, a Starbucks employee pursuing a model recycling program with corporate go-ahead, after she met with the Green Team in January.
  - She has also met with Tom Arnold of the City of Morgantown to start working out how the city can coordinate with Starbuck’s to make the plan work.
  - Mariana will work with WVU industrial design students and others to determine how to make recycling work efficiently at the Starbuck’s outlet on Van Voorhuis Road.

- Communications
  - Winter Series of Green Nights at the Library and Green Morning at Farmer's Market
    - Four events planned: *February 20* on Solar Energy in WV (Aaron Sutch/Jeff Simcoe); *March 27* on Progress on Recycling in Morgantown area (city/county/university/citizen efforts); *April 19*: Sustainable Household Fair (co-sponsored with Farmer's Market); and *May 15*: Report on results of Morgantown baseline carbon study (Jeff Simcoe/DSS).
    - Pam Cubberly is organizing and publicizing the events and is serving as the key contact with the library for three of the events.
    - Pam asked for input on the April 19 event. The group contributed some new ideas: including activities for children. Pam will follow up on suggestions.
  - Green Morgantown Facebook Group: Input on maintaining balance in posts
    - Aaron thanked Pam Cubberly and Susan Sullivan, moderators for the online group, for the success to date of this 206-member Facebook Group co-sponsored by the Green Team and the City of Morgantown.
    - In general, posts by members respect the guidelines, summarized at the top of the page, with some exceptions that have raised questions on how to maintain a balance acceptable to the city as cosponsor.
    - Aaron, Susan, and Pam have recently discussed certain posts that have raised discussion on what is appropriate. For example, a link to a MoveOn.org petition was deleted as too closely related to the Democratic Party and a citizen-initiated petition on whitehouse.gov asking the president for action on Charleston's water crisis was left because a citizen initiated it about an issue of great interest to Morgantowners.
  - Possible opportunity for Green Team and others' input into cutting-edge research on measuring greenhouse gas emissions through the National Institute of Standards and Technology.
    - Pam briefly mentioned recent contact with James Whetstone, Special Assistant to the Director for GHG Measurements at NIST at a workshop on monitoring and measuring GHGs in cities for decision making. This was part of the larger National Council on Science and Environment's Building Climate Solutions conference in January in Arlington, VA.
    - The major outcomes of the workshop's discussion was how to get input at this stage of their research from "user communities"—those actually carrying out GHG emission studies in actual cities—in order to make new research tools more relevant to real needs in urban areas.
    - Mr. Whetstone expressed possible interest in visiting Morgantown to speak with key persons involved in our study. Morgantown as a location for a user workshop for input into this research was casually discussed.
    - **ACTION.** Aaron suggested that Pam find out if he is still interested, express the team's willingness to meet with him in the next month or so, and what he thinks would be useful at such a meeting.